

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
SOUTH DAKOTA

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE  
CODE 410**

Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Job Location \_\_\_\_\_ GPS \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Operation and Maintenance Items**

Operation and maintenance (O&M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with NRCS assistance. The landuser is responsible for proper O&M throughout the life of the practice and as may be required by Federal, state or local laws or regulations.

Operation refers to operation of the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances, and easements; and in such a manner that will result in the least adverse impact on the environment and will permit the practice to serve the purpose for which it was installed. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components which fail.

Necessary operation and maintenance items for this practice include:

- ☐ Erosion, settlement or cracks in earthen sections must be investigated (to determine the cause) and repaired.
- ☐ Periodically inspect spillways and control gates, valves and weirs for proper functioning and their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Remove debris or flow blockages.
- ☐ Inspect concrete for accelerated weathering, spalling, settlement, misalignment or cracks. Repair defects.
- ☐ Inspect rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Repair to original grades if necessary.
- ☐ Inspect metal surfaces for rust and other damage. Especially inspect sections in contact with earthfill and/or other materials. Repair or replace damaged sections and apply a protective covering.
- ☐ Check for unusual seepage on the backside of dam earthfills. Check for water flowing underneath pipes through earth fills, water flowing in the inlet but not out the outlet, and for water flowing out the outlet but not in the inlet. Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Screens and/or rodent guards must be maintained and in place.
- ☐ Repair any rodent, burrowing animal, vandalism, vehicle, or livestock damage.
- ☐ Maintain a vigorous growth of vegetation. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing or short term grazing may also be needed to control height.
- ☐ Maintain fences to prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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